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Frances O'Grady General Secretary  
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Maheta Molango  
Professional Footballers' Association

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Dear Maheta,

### **Solidarity with the PFA**

We write to congratulate the England team and to stand in solidarity against the disgusting racist abuse that was directed towards Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho.

The TUC is the voice of Britain at work. We exist to improve working life and promote equality for everyone and we bring together more than 5.5 million working people who make up our 48 member unions, including all the members of the England team.

Before the tournament began, Gareth Southgate set out his vision for an England team that was about more than football, that it was the duty of this England team "to continue to interact with the public on matters such as equality, inclusivity and racial injustice". Values of course that are core trade union values.

With Gareth Southgate, this young side have provided the nation with hope and a togetherness which has not always been there and throughout the tournament we saw an England team that consistently acted with grace, verve and courage.

In his pre-tournament letter Gareth went on to say "the reality is that the result is just a small part of it. When England play, there's much more at stake than that. It's about how we conduct ourselves on and off the pitch, how we bring people together, how we inspire and unite, how we create memories that last beyond the 90 minutes. That last beyond the summer. That last forever."

On Sunday night, as we united to watch the finals, I reflected on the factors that made this particular tournament feel so different to previous ones, particularly the sense of unity, hope and optimism the England team had brought to us all. A team that was made up of players that are proudly working class, multi-ethnic and multi-faith. And a true reflection of the wonderful diversity of working people in towns and cities up and down the country.

The disgusting and shameful racist abuse that was directed at your members has no place in society or the workplace.

There is no more important priority for our trade union movement today than to do whatever it takes to stand up against racism and to secure racial justice at work. Wherever and whenever racism exists, wherever the conditions exist which enable racism to flourish, we must be ready to act and to call it out. But we need to do more than speak out – we must also make a difference.

Trade union members have a record of strongly opposing racism. The movement can be more visible in clocking up wins against racism, and make the challenging of racism at work as integral as defending and improving terms and conditions. There is strong commitment across the trade union movement to put unions at the forefront in the struggle for race equality.

Yours sincerely

Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, TUC  
Christina McAnea, General Secretary, UNISON  
Harish Patel, National Equalities Officer, Unite  
Gary Smith, General Secretary, GMB  
Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary, NEU  
Dr Mary Bousted, Joint General Secretary, NEU  
Paddy Lillis, General Secretary, Usdaw  
Dr Patrick Roach, General Secretary, NASUWT  
Dave Ward, General Secretary, CWU  
Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, PCS  
Mike Clancy, General Secretary, Prospect  
Dr Jo Grady, General Secretary, UCU  
Mick Lynch, General Secretary, RMT  
Larry Flanagan, General Secretary, EIS  
Karen Middleton, Chief Executive, CSP  
Jon Skewes, Executive Director, External Relations, RCM  
Paul Whiteman, General Secretary, NAHT  
Roy Rickhuss CBE, General Secretary, Community  
Horace Trubridge, General Secretary, Musicians' Union  
Steve Gillan, General Secretary, POA  
Richard Evans OBE, Chief Executive Officer, The Society and College of Radiographers  
Michelle Stanistreet, General Secretary, National Union of Journalists  
Ged Nichols, General Secretary, Accord  
Mick Whelan, General Secretary, ASLEF  
Dave Penman, General Secretary, FDA  
Manuel Cortes, General Secretary, TSSA  
Sarah Woolley, General Secretary, BFAWU  
Mark Dickinson, General Secretary, Nautilus International  
Tim Rose, General Secretary, Nationwide Group Staff Union  
Steve Jamieson, CEO and General Secretary, The Royal College of Podiatry  
Robert Monks, General Secretary, United Road Transport Union  
Andy Burman, Chief Executive and General Secretary, BDA  
Linda Rolph, General Secretary, Advance  
Ian Lawrence, General Secretary, Napo  
Brian Linn, General Secretary, Aegis  
Kate Fallon, General Secretary, Association of Educational Psychologists  
Paul Donaldson, General Secretary, HCSA

Ellie Peers, General Secretary, WGGB  
Michele Gregson, General Secretary, NSEAD  
Zita Holbourne, Joint National Chair, Artists' Union England  
Michael Schwaabe, President, AFA  
Chris JR Kitchen, General Secretary, National Union of Mineworkers  
Gloria Mills on behalf of the TUC Race Relations Committee  
Dave Allan, Co-Chair, TUC Disabled Workers' Committee  
Ann Galpin, Co-Chair, TUC Disabled Workers' Committee  
Alex Graham, Chair, TUC Young Workers Forum